MARVEL

VENOMVERSE

WAR STORIES

#1

BUNN
SHALVEY
OKORAFOR
VISAGGIO
COVINGTON
MARTELLO
FORD
ARIZMENDI
RANDOLPH
AND MORE!

TALES FROM THE FRONT LINES

CULLEN BUNN
WRITER

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COLOR ARTIST

S-STRANGE.

MY GOD-- CAPTAIN, WHAT *HAPPENED?*

WE WERE *HIT.*

THE POISONS WERE WAITING TO *AMBUSH* US.

THEY... CAME OUT OF *NOWHERE.*

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS--?

THEY'RE GONE.

THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT.

I'M THE ONLY *SURVIVOR.*

NOT ALL OF THEM DIED OUTRIGHT...*MOST*... BUT NOT *ALL.*

THE POISONS TOOK *MOON KNIGHT.*

THEY *CONSUMED* HIM.

HE THOUGHT HE SAW SOMEONE HE KNEW.

HE KEPT MUTTERING SOMETHING ABOUT "MARLENE."

HIS SYMBIOTE TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

WE CANNOT STAY HERE.

IF THEY HAVE MOON KNIGHT, THEY KNOW WHERE WE ARE.

ARE WE **ALONE** NOW?

HAVE YOU EXHAUSTED OUR RESOURCES?

I'M NOT THROWING IN THE TOWEL--FAR FROM IT--BUT I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF WE'RE THE LAST MEN STANDING.

WE ARE NOT ALONE.

NOT YET.

THERE ARE COUNTLESS ***WORLDS***... COUNTLESS ***VENOM SYMBIOTES.***

"COUNTLESS."

AND WE'RE STILL RUNNING OUT FASTER THAN YOU CAN BRING THEM OVER.

I HAVE REGAINED SOME OF MY STRENGTH SINCE THE LAST SUMMONING.

BUT BOLSTERING OUR FORCES SO QUICKLY WILL ***TAX*** ME.

GAZING ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, I SEE OUR BRETHREN.

IF I COULD BRING AN ***ARMY*** ACROSS THE VOID, I WOULD.

MAYBE THEN WE'D HAVE A ***FIGHTING CHANCE.***

THEY'VE TAKEN RHINO. ***HULK.*** THE HEAD-ON APPROACH ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE.

WE NEED ***STEALTH.*** WE NEED ***DEMOLITIONS SKILL*** MAYBE.

AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT, WE STILL NEED ***BODIES*** TO THROW AT OUR ENEMY.

NO. WE CAN'T THINK LIKE THAT, STEPHEN.

THESE AREN'T SACRIFICIAL LAMBS WE'RE BRINGING TO THE SLAUGHTER.

BY THE TIME I'M DONE WITH THEM, THEY'LL BE ***SOLDIERS.*** SO LET'S SEE 'EM...

"LET'S SEE THE NEXT BATCH OF ***RECRUITS...***"

BLESSING IN DISGUISE

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WELCOME TO LAGOS, NIGERIA.

THIS WAS MY HOME.

I STILL LOVE LAGOS...

VROOM!

BRUCE LEE

...EVEN *AFTER* THE BUS ACCIDENT.

RA MILAJE

GRASSHOPPERS HAVE POWERFUL HIND LEGS THAT ENABLE THEM TO ESCAPE FROM THREATS.

WINNER!

SO FAST!

BECAUSE THEIR LEGS ARE SO POWERFUL, MANY FORGET THEY CAN FLY...

BUG JAR

WINNER!

So FAST!

BUS ACCIDENT PARALYZES TRACK STAR

CRASH!

tink!

CRACK!

HUH?

DO **NOT** TOUCH THAT! IT'S DANGEROUS!

EEEEEEE! CAN'T GET AWAY FROM IT!

BLACK PANTHER, ***HELP!***

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN MY LIFE, I WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

IT WAS FATE.

GRAB!

NGOZI. THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE CALLED. THAT MEANS "BLESSING." HOW SWEET.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHO ARE...?

I AM VENOM. WE'RE GOING TO...

...WAIT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SLAM

OH MY GOD-- CAN I MOVE MY LEGS BECAUSE OF ***YOU?*** OH MY GOD!

NAWA OH! THIS IS AMAZING.

I CAN CHANGE INTO ANYTHING!

SKRABOOM

MESSING UP MY DELIVERY. MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID BLACK CATS WERE BAD LUCK. I'LL SMASH YA LIKE A BEETLE!

?!

OH, NO.

KRAK

WE NEED TO RUN! THERE'S NO ONE TO PROTECT US-- NO ONE TO STOP THE RHINO!

EASY. LOOK AROUND. IF THE PANTHER IS DEAD, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN KEEP THESE PEOPLE SAFE...

...AND WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

VENOM!

NO!

YES.

WE ARE DOING THIS. BLACK PANTHER NEEDS US. WE'LL BE HIS DORA MILAJE.

CAN WE?

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE CAN.

WE WILL.

YOU THINK BONDING WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL WILL PROTECT YA?!

BACK IN THE CAN, ALIEN. I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!

SO INTUITIVE, NGOZI.

OKAY...

...PERHAPS WE CAN DO THIS.

C'MON, KID. DON'T SCREW WITH ME!

YOU KILLED BLACK PANTHER!

AND NOW I'M GONNA KILL YOU, TOO!

SPLORCH

ARGH!!! MY EYE!

WELL DONE.

X

X

ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ONE OF THE PANTHER'S *DORA MILAJE*. BUT NOT LIKE **THIS**...

LATER...

SINCE THE BUS ACCIDENT OUR DAUGHTER HAS LIVED MOSTLY IN HER HEAD. NOW THIS. ARE YOU SURE?

WILL SHE BE SAFE?

NOTHING IS COINCIDENCE. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD.

THEY'VE COME FOR US. WE SHOULD RUN.

NO, VENOM. WE'LL STAY.

...WAS KILLED BY THE RHINO RIGHT HERE IN LAGOS. A SUCCESSOR TO THE BLACK PANTHER MANTLE HAS YET TO BE CHOSEN.

WAKANDA, TWO WEEKS LATER.

SHE'S A ***NATURAL***. NOT QUITE AS GIFTED AS T'CHALLA, BUT WITH TIME, SHE WILL BECOME A ***FINE*** WARRIOR.

KRAK

THE BEST WAY TO GET TO KNOW SOMEONE IS IN BATTLE. VENOM AND I GREW TO KNOW EACH OTHER WELL. WE TRAINED FOR WEEKS WITH THE *DORA MILAJE*.

DON'T MOVE. BE CALM. YOU'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR, MY DEAR.

THE HEART-SHAPED HERBS WILL HELP YOU FULLY BOND WITH THE ***ALIEN***.

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS PART OF THE SACRED RITUAL.

SHE'S STRONG, BUT SHE'LL NEVER WALK WITHOUT THE SYMBIOTE.

SHE IS WHAT SHE IS.

DO NOT ALLOW THEIR WORDS TO AFFECT YOU.

THERE'S *POWER* IN NUMBERS, NGOZI.

AND, FOR NOW, WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN PROTECT WAKANDA.

WE ALL DIE EVENTUALLY.

BUT THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A BLACK PANTHER.

THE END!

THE NAME'S FRANK CASTLE. I'VE BEEN WAGING A ***WAR ON CRIME*** FOR YEARS.

EVERY MURDERER, CROOK AND THIEF I CAN FIND, I ***PUNISH***.

IT'S BEEN A LONG CAMPAIGN. A JUST WAR...

...BUT IT'S A WAR I'M ***LOSING***.

DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

DECLAN SHALVEY
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DECLAN SHALVEY
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WILSON FISK HAS ORGANIZED THE CRIME FAMILIES OF NEW YORK IN AN UNPRECEDENTED WAY--

--AGAINST ME.

FOR MONTHS NOW, INSTEAD OF ***TARGETING*** THE UNDERWORLD, I'VE BEEN KEEPING THEM AT BAY.

I'M OUT OF RESOURCES, OUT OF AMMO AND OUT OF LUCK.

FISK KNOWS THIS, HE KNOWS I'M NEAR MY END, SO HE'S OFFERED ME A TRUCE IF I MEET HIM.

UNARMED.

I'M HERE TO MAKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.

AH, MR. CASTLE. WELCOME.

YOU KNOW, IN THE PAST, I'VE HAD TO HIDE IN MANY OF THESE SAFE HOUSES OF MINE.

FOR MANY MONTHS, I'VE HAD TO TAKE **SHELTER** FROM YOUR ASSAULTS.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF MY MEN SEARCH YOU FOR WEAPONS.

CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.

HE'S CLEAN, SIR.

YOU KNOW, IT'S A SHAME.

JUST THE MERE ***MENTION*** OF THE PUNISHER USED TO TERRIFY THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT.

YOU HAVE BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

BUT YOU UNDERESTIMATED ME, CASTLE. YOU UNDERESTIMATED ***US***.

YOUR ONE-MAN WAR ON CRIME HAS FAILED.

YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE I OFFERED YOU A TRUCE, KNOWING YOU CAN NO LONGER HOLD OUT.

I KNOW YOU ARE ***DESPERATE***.

THE ONLY GUNS NEARBY ARE POINTING AT YOU.

YOU'VE NOWHERE LEFT TO GO.

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL.

A ***DEAL?*** MY GOOD MAN, I'M NOT OFFERING YOU ONE.

KILL HIM.

I WASN'T TALKING TO ***YOU***, FISK.

YESSSSSSSSS!

WE'RE GLAD YOU ACCEPTED OUR OFFER, FRANK!

GLLLLLGH!

YOU CHECKED FRANK FOR WEAPONS...

...BUT YOU MISSED ONE.

YOU MISSED VENOM!

KILL IT!

WE KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH A LOADED WEAPON, *DON'T* WE, FRANK?

WE KILL *CRIMINAL* SCUM!

ARRRRGH!

WE ARE NOW THE ARSENAL OF YOUR WAR, FRANK.

POINT US AT YOUR TARGET...

...AND UNLEASH HELL.

WE TOLD YOU, FRANK. WE PROMISED YOU THAT WITH OUR HELP YOU COULD ACHIEVE WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED--TO WIPE OUT CRIME IN NEW YORK.

MURDERERS, ABUSERS, PETTY THIEVES. THEY ALL FEAR YOUR NAME AGAIN.

OUR NAME.

TOGETHER, WE ARE RUTHLESS...WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE!

WE ARE A KILLING MACHINE!

ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW, FRANK?

ALL THE CRIME FAMILIES OF NEW YORK. WIPED OUT.

THEY WERE *DELICIOUS.*

I CAN LIVE WITH IT.

WONDERFUL. WILL YOU NOW MEET YOUR END OF OUR BARGAIN?

LET'S GET IT OVER WITH.

WHO'S THE TARGET?

YOU'LL SEE.

YOU HAVE A UNIQUE SET OF SKILLS, FRANK.

AND A BLOODLUST UNLIKE ANYTHING WE'VE EVER SEEN.

KILL FOR *US.*

WHENEVER WE GET CLOSE TO HIM, WE GROW TOO WEAK TO DO WHAT IS *NECESSARY.*

WE NEED *YOU* FRANK. WE NEED A *KILLSHOT.*

ONE LAST *MONSTER* FOR US TO PUNISH.

SPIDER-MAN?! NO. NOT HIM. HE'S AN INNOCENT.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE HAS DONE TO US, FRANK! WE MADE A DEAL... TAKE THE SHOT!

THE DEAL WAS THAT I KILL ONE FOR YOU, YOU KILL MANY WITH ME. NOT THIS.

AND WE DID IT, FRANK. WE KILLED SO MANY. THIS LIFE IS THE COST OF ALL THAT CRIMINAL SCUM. WE MADE A DEAL.

DON'T CARE. WON'T DO IT.

YOU DON'T GET IT, FRANK. WE'RE ONE NOW. I'M INSIDE YOUR HEAD.

I'M NOT JUST THE WEAPON...

...I CAN ALSO PULL THE TRIGGER.

--WHAT...WHAT IS THIS?

HURTS, FRANK. DON'T KNOW WHAT'S --

IT'S QUIET TONIGHT. WHERE'D ALL THE CRIMINALS GO?!

...

AW, DANGIT! I MUST BE MISSING GAME OF THRONES AGAIN!

ABOVE AVENGERS MANSION, RAPIDLY DESCENDING.

TARGET IDENTIFIED

"TARGET IDENTIFIED," HUH? YOU **SURE** ABOUT THAT?

AFFIRMATIVE.

TORPEDO TUBE

LAST TIME YOU WERE **"AFFIRMATIVE,"** IT ENDED UP BEING **A-BOMB** INSTEAD OF THE **THING.**

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME **KILLED.** YOU WAITING FOR THE ROBOT UPRISING? GONNA FINALLY TAKE ME OUT?

AFFIRMATIVE.

TUBE

I **KNEW** I LIKED YOU.

3 2 1

FWOOSH

GYAAAA--

--AAAAAAAA--

--AAAAAAAA--

--AAAAAAAA--

HHN?

KRRRSH

FIBER PLUS

GEEZ!

SORRY ABOUT THE MESS THERE. GRAV THRUSTER IS KINDA JANKY. SYMBIOTE DOESN'T LIKE IT MUCH.

YOU KNOW, YOU ***TRY*** TO CONTROL IT, BUT THE ***OOZY TENDRIL BITS*** KEEP CLOGGING IT UP AND, HEY, NEXT THING YOU KNOW I'M CRASHING THROUGH YOUR, WHAT'S THIS, A KITCHEN?

CRASHING THROUGH YOUR KITCHEN.

ANYWAY, NAME'S ***ROCKET.***

SO, LET'S SEE. I'M HERE LOOKING FOR, UH, "CAPTAIN AMERICA." IS THAT YOU? ***CAROL DANVERS?***

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU FLESHIES APART WITHOUT THE BRIGHT COSTUMES, YOU KNOW?

AND IT'S HARD TO TELL ***YOU*** APART FROM THE RODENTS WHO EAT MY ***GARBAGE.***

YES, I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND YOU JUST WRECKED MY ***HOUSE.***

HEH. AWESOME.

THAT ***KREE BOUNTY*** ON YOUR HEAD IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST I'VE EVER SEEN. DEAD OR ALIVE, TOO.

TO ME, MY SHIELD!

WHOOSH

HEY! WATCH IT!

VZZZH

YOU WANNA TRY STARTING AGAIN?

NAH.

FITAFITAFITAFITAFITAFITA

HUH.

GOTTA GET SOME BETTER STUFF IN MY ARSENAL. YOU'D ***THINK*** MY BETTER HALF WOULD POWER UP MY GUNS, BUT NOPE. JUST REGULAR GUNS.

IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY DISAPPOINTING, YOU KNOW? LIKE--

FWHAM

SO THE ***KREE***, HUH? WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH ***ME***?

DON'T KNOW.

DON'T CARE.

MAYOR JENNIF... WALTERS ANSWE... CRITICS

BOMBS AWAY.

FOOSH

KRSSH

KRSSH

SEE, YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH YOU GUYS? NO GUILE. NO *TEETH*. I MEAN, I KNOW YOU *HAVE* TEETH BUT YOU DON'T HAVE *REAL RAZOR-SHARP CHOMPERS*.

YOU CAN USE 'EM FOR ABOUT *ANYTHING*. SEE? IT'S NOT ABOUT *POWER*. IT'S ABOUT *VERSATIL--*

?

-HAK-
-HAK-

OH, *RIGHT*. YOUR KREE ENGINEERING. I NEED TO GET ME SOME OF *THAT*, TOO.

HI. SO, DUMB QUESTION.

CAN WE MAYBE TAKE THIS OUTSIDE? HAVE A *REAL THROWDOWN* WITHOUT, YOU KNOW, DESTROYING MY HOUSE?

HMM.

NOPE.

GET OUT OF MY DAMN HOUSE!

WHAM

KRSSH

OH. OKAY. SO, YOU WANNA PLAY IT LIKE THAT? YOU WANNA PLAY IT *STUPID?*

WELL, *NOBODY'S* STUPIDER THAN *ME.*

HOLD ON. I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.

YOU'VE GOT *THIRTY SECONDS* TO TURN AROUND AND GO HOME.

SEE THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU SUPER-TYPES. *ALWAYS* WANNA TAKE THE HIGH GROUND.

TWENTY SECONDS.

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE VERY PROFESSIONAL. VERY COURTEOUS.

FIFTEEN.

I ONLY NEED TEN.

K-CHK

ALL RIGHT!

LET'S--

UNNGH!

HOLY...

HNNG.

HELP! I PROMISE I WON'T KILL YOU!

I--

NOOOOOOOO!

SHLURP

WOW, OKAY.

HUH.

I GUESS I SHOULD... CLEAN UP?

3, 2, 1.

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DON'T MISS ROCKET'S ADVENTURE IN VENOMVERSE 1!

AVENGERS. WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD...IT IS TRUE. THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS ENJOINED ITSELF TO ME...

...BUT REST ASSURED THAT DOOM IS IN CONTROL.

WE ARE IN CONTROL.

NO.

...

AHEM. AND BECAUSE OF THESE EVENTS, THINGS HAVE CRYSTALIZED FOR ME, PERSONALLY.

I AM PROPOSING A UNILATERAL PEACE AGREEMENT. I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND ALL MY PROPOSALS EXCEPTIONALLY REASONABLE.

MAKE THEM LOWER THEIR DEFENSES. THEN WE WILL ATTACK!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR TREPIDATION, CAPTAIN, CERTAINLY. COMPLETELY. BUT REST ASSURED THAT NO OUTSIDE FORCE WILL EVER INFLUENCE MY DECISIONS. THE SYMBIOTE IS SUBDUED.

FORCE MAJEURE

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HOW CAN YOU EXPECT US TO TRUST YOU?

IT WILL BE AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT HUMAN BUFFET.

YOU COULD SAY THAT I'VE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF.

LIKE HELL.

THIS LATVERIAN PEACE ACCORD WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS MANKIND'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT.

I TRUST THAT YOU ALL WILL READ AND SIGN IT IN A TIMELY MANNER.

WE DON'T NEED TO HIDE BEHIND FALSE TREATIES. WE SHOULD JUST ATTACK NOW. I'M HUNGRY, DOOM.

THERE IS NO "WE."

DOES ANYBODY HERE BUY THAT?
WIDOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE'VE READ THE AGREEMENT. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO COMPREHENSIVE.
I DON'T TRUST IT.
CAGE, IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO VISIT LATVERIA, TAKE A TEAM WITH YOU.
YOU WANT ME TO TAKE TEAM, CAPTAIN, THEN YOU BETTER HURRY UP.
WHY DO YOU RESIST US?
ON PRINCIPLE.
YOU WOULD USE ME AS A *PUPPET* TO SATIATE YOUR BLOODLUST.
YOU CAN ONLY BE SO STRONG. YOU'RE HUMAN.
WE HAVE NO LIMITS.
YOU THINK DOOM NEEDS THE LIKES OF *YOU* TO BE LIMITLESS?

YOU THINK YOU ARE ANYTHING BEFORE **DOOM?!** I'VE BATTLED THE GREATEST FORCES IN **THIS** UNIVERSE AS WELL AS **OTHERS.**

BUNCHA WIMPS.

I'VE LITERALLY TRAVELED TO **HELL** AND BACK.

WALK IN THE PARK.

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM? JOIN ME.

JOIN ME.

JOIN ME.

JOIN ME.

PATHETIC **PARASITE.** YOU WOULD USE MY OWN MACHINES AGAINST ME?

IF YOU ARE UNWILLING TO GIVE ME YOUR HELP ON **MY** TERMS...

...I WILL **TAKE** IT.

YOU ARE LEAVING ME WITH LITTLE CHOICE, DOOM--

YOU THINK ME **AFRAID?**

"OTHERS, LIKE THE **AVENGERS**, FEAR YOUR POWER.

"I FEEL **NO** FEAR."

KRAKOOM

YOU GUYS SEE THAT? I **KNEW** I DIDN'T TRUST HIM FOR A REASON.

WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED, DOOM. IT'S OVER FOR YOU AND THE SYMBIOTE.

FOR ME AND **WHOM?**

"BUT I'LL BE DAMNED IF I LET YOU CORRUPT WHAT I HAVE PLANNED FOR THE WORLD.

"AND JUST AS I'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED, I WILL TAKE **YOU**, TOO."

THE SYMBIOTE IS GONE, CAGE...

...HERE, THERE IS ONLY DOOM.

BUT OUT THERE...

OUT THERE ARE MANY OTHERS. A GREAT MANY.

YES, LORD DOOM. I SENSE THEM AS WELL.

TOLDJA HE'S LOST IT.

I'M TAKING THE SHOT!

LET US MEET THEM, DOOM.

LET US MEET THE OTHERS.

HE'S GONE!

DIDN'T THINK I HIT HIM THAT HARD...

...TO BE CONTINUED?

Don't miss...

VENOMVERSE

ON SALE NOW!

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